



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 30, 1999
VOL. 46 NO. 156

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were mixed, but mostly trending unchanged for next week's trading. Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail demand was light to fair, but food services was fair to instances good where holiday festivities were present. Supplies were mostly adequate with smaller sizes more than sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, wings were adequate to close balanced with good movement. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate with light demand, and dark meat items were usually sufficient with fair interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 1/03-01/08/00 (cents per lb)

AREAS	US GRADE A (Including branded product)		COMPOSITE	
	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Bos/New Eng	TFEWR	—		
Chicago	49.00-52.00	48.00-61.00	51.85	20
Cincinnati	TFEWR	—		
Cleveland	TFEWR	—		
Denver	63.50	—		
Detroit	TFEWR	—		
Los Angeles	64.00	—		
New York	50.00-55.00	—		
Philadelphia	TFEWR	—		
Pittsburgh	TFEWR	—		
St. Louis	TFEWR	—		
San Francisco	64.50	—		
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	57.00-59.00	45.00-59.50	58.04	79

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 58.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
555	53.90-61.00	58.30
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
BREASTS - B/S	134.00	3,545
BREASTS - WHOLE	65.50	1,658
THIGH MEAT - B/S	71.50	514
LEG QUARTERS	19.50	7,233
WINGS	76.50	2,412

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was slow to fair. Food service was fair to moderate with some improvements expected due to first of the month and holiday interest. Supplies were at least sufficient for current needs. Processing schedules were part time. In the parts structure, breast items were in the longest position and difficult to move. Wings were in best balance with good demand, and dark meat items were sufficient with fair movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady with preliminary majority prices unchanged from last Friday levels. Offerings easily adequate for an unaggressive buyers' interest. Demand by stores was light for wholebody and moderate for parts, best where featured. Demand by restaurants and fast food fairly good. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. Trade sentiment was barely steady on bone-in breasts, fully steady on wings and generally steady on balance of parts.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's delivery were unchanged into Chicago and TFEWR elsewhere. Whole fryer trade sentiment was generally steady. Offers of additional whole fryers were adequate for buyers current needs. Retail demand light with food service movement irregular, light to instances good into Chicago. Supplies of wings barely adequate, bone-in breast fully adequate, boneless skinless breast and leg quarters adequate. Trade sentiment fully steady on wings, steady to barely steady on bone-in breast and steady on boneless skinless breast and leg quarters.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole fryers was light to instances fair. Offerings of smaller birds were at least adequate; heavier sizes were adequate for trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was generally fair. The market tone was steady on larger sizes; steady to barely steady on the lighter sizes. In the parts market, bone-in breast were readily available and slow to clear. Wings were in close balance. Other items were steady to barely steady.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly light to occasionally fair. Offerings were balanced on the heavier sizes, fully sufficient on the lighter weights. Live supplies were moderate with weights in a full range. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 55 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was generally steady. In the parts complex, wings were in closest balance to tight. Breast items were fully adequate to ample, and leg items were about adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	54-67
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	58.30
NO. OF BOXES	9,711
CUMULATIVE	12/27/99-12/31/99 58.02
	12/28/98-12/01/98 57.81
NO. OF BOXES	12/27/99-12/31/99 40,936
	12/28/98-12/01/98 29,761

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DECEMBER 31, 1999

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	449	125.00-178.00	130-135	132.87	2,124	133.11
TENDERLOINS	183	121.00-170.00	130-135	136.15	575	144.41
BREAST - LINE RUN	104	63.00-70.00	63-65	63.54	504	64.78
FRONT HALVES	70	48.00-55.00	-	51.50	245	57.71
LEGS	46	26.00-34.00	26-27	27.04	190	26.84
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	539	15.50-19.00	16-17	16.38	2,003	16.34
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,288	17.50-21.00	20-21	19.84	4,952	19.80
WINGS (WHOLE)	63	75.00-77.00	-	75.70	336	74.46
WINGS (CUT)	511	80.00-96.00	85-87	86.22	1,841	85.89
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				52	34.00
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				56	26.86
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				131	65.20

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR DECEMBER 31, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
31.75 - 37.00	33.94	37.53

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity improved slightly for the holiday weekend, but was still only fair at best. Offerings were ample for bone-in breast, at least adequate on most other items. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone was weak on bone-in breast. Wings were close balance to tight. Steady to barely steady on the balance.

PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	125-130	134.65	424,280	133.87	1,750,640
TENDERLOINS	125	125.05	85,320	125.36	385,330
BREAST - WITH RIBS	52-53	61.93	249,560	64.78	781,800
BREAST - LINE RUN	52	51.85	120,600	53.39	698,280
LEGS	26-27	30.26	245,840	30.03	1,002,680
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	19.45	347,788	19.12	1,240,082
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	33.91	94,190	32.73	410,120
THIGHS	21-22	24.77	124,800	27.26	375,280
B/S THIGHS	70-71	74.60	31,840	73.82	164,400
WINGS (WHOLE)	73-74	83.07	178,040	81.33	874,280
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	51,920	12.03	203,680
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	39.23	50,960	38.57	182,885
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.35	79,240	64.32	311,010

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL WTS	AVG WTS
	12/30	12/28	12/28	12/23	12/21
ALA	3,204	3,797	5.14	2,596	4.91
ARK	4,291	5,078	4.93	3,006	4.79
DELMARVA	2,472	2,437	5.18	2,262	5.22
KY-LA-TN	1,949	1,887	4.57	1,708	4.39
MISS	2,531	2,740	5.06	2,220	4.98
NC	2,604	2,519	5.83	2,541	5.87
TEXAS	2,222	2,149	4.96	*2136*	4.86
TOTAL	19,273	20,607	5.10	16,469	5.00
MON-THUR	80,014(B)			75,119(B)	

REVISED

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations

(B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 30-Dec 1999 is estimated to be 28,835,000 up 16.68 percent from a week ago and up 4.08 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 24,713,000, last year 27,704,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	88
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	309
RABBITS-CUT UP	326

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104
	ICE PACK	92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	98
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-162

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending Dec. 18, 1999 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
	THOUSANDS		

Head	24,748	28,791	37,819
Avg Weight	3.78	4.69	6.06
% of total /1	27%	32%	41%

COMPARISONS

Last week	27,976	20,230	41,371
Avg Weight	3.80	4.81	6.08
% of total /1	31%	23%	46%
Same week, yr ago /2	29,338	23,607	41,031
Avg Weight	3.73	4.83	6.08
% of total /1	31%	25%	44%
To date/1999	1,582,296	1,536,394	2,026,932
To date/1998	1,666,388	1,754,049	1,522,868

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 25-Dec-99 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	THOUSANDS				
HEAD	117,493(A)	1,694	1,052	2,746	456
AVG WT	5.05	3.48	7.67	5.08	6.80
LAST WEEK	149,008	2,594	1,652	4,246	384
YR AGO	106,850	1,428	926	2,354	497
AVG WT	4.98	3.33	8.07	5.20	6.53
TO-DATE/1999	7,659,252	105,174	71,875	177,049	22,565
TO-DATE/1998	7,410,831	102,796	63,998	166,794	23,051

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 137.9 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 118.9 million head or 19.0 million head less than or 86 percent of estimated fryers available.

**** NOTICE - CORRECTION for WEEK ENDING 18-Dec-99 on:****

HEAD	HEAVY HENS: 1,652*	TOTAL HENS: 4,246*
TO-DATE/1999	70,823*	174,303*

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION DEC 28, 1999
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.50 - .58	Silkie	2.00 - 3.00ea
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.50 - .56	Geese 9-14	.30 - .44
Pekin Ducks	.40 - .52	Pigeons	1.50 - 2.25ea
Red Fowl 4-4.5	.30 - .48	White Pigeons	2.50 - 3.75ea
Red Fowl 5-6	.50 - .82	Rabbits 4-6	1.20 - 1.82
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.40 - .74	Rabbits 7-11	1.00 - 1.44
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.60 - .84	Bunnies	1.00 - 4.50ea
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.50 - .82	Guinea Pigs	3.00 - 8.25ea
Guinea Fowl	1.90 - 2.35	Goats	38.00 - 70.00ea
Banty Roosters	2.00 - 5.50ea	Kid Goats	14.00 - 32.00ea
Banty Hens	1.50 - 3.25ea	Pullets 4-6	.60 - .74
Leghorn Hens	.12 - .24		

Total Coops Sold 640

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FED-STATE FOR WEEK OF 27-DEC-99
DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	59-60	
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-83	71-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA,RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady. Demand was good. Sizes were desirable to at times heavy. Slaughter schedules were slightly reduced this week for the upcoming New Year's holiday. Prices to first receivers for 10-18 oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in legs at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40-0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 27-DEC-1999

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 20	147.3	140.5	105	4.97
27	111.1	140.3	79	4.97
DECEMBER 4	155.9	143.6	109	5.08
11	153.3	144.1	106	5.01
18	150.8	139.5	108	5.05
25	118.9	137.9	86	5.05
YEAR TO DATE	7753.9	7676.9	101	
JANUARY 1		137.9		
JANUARY 7		144.3		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 25-Dec-99

IN THOUSANDS

Broilers 3,488 HD, 17,126 lbs., Light Hens 163 HD, 584 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

NOT AVAILABLE

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Prices were generally unchanged from last week values. Trading was mostly light with most sellers on reduced schedules. Demand was fair. Offerings were sufficient for trade needs. The undertone was about steady to steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**

25.75-26.25 MAJORITY

HEAVY CANNER HENS**(WITHOUT NECKS)**

31-35.25 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**

25-28 MAJORITY 25-26

HEAVY CANNER HENS**(WITHOUT NECKS)**

32-36.75 MAJORITY 36-36.75

EASTERN LIGHT Prices were unchanged. Demand was mostly light for the adequate to ample offerings. Processing schedules were reduced as most operations are on holiday schedules. The undertone was steady.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY HENS Sales were too few to report. Demand was generally fair for the fully adequate offerings. Trading was light with most plants on reduced holiday schedules. The undertone was steady at best.

NORTH CENTRAL LIVE LIGHT HEN Prices were unchanged. Processors were working full schedules next week. Offerings of additional spent fowl were usually fully adequate for the moderate demand. Trade sentiment barely steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT Plants worked reduced holiday schedules. Offerings ample.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (2)	
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0 (1)	
Eastern Light	0 (2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR (2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR (1)	
No. Central Light	0-.5 (2)	0
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT